

**Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare
Request for Letters of Interest
Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant FY26**

INTRODUCTION

Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare, a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska, has the statutory responsibility for organizing and supervising comprehensive mental health and substance abuse services in the Region 6 service area which includes Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties in eastern Nebraska.

Region 6, one of six behavioral health regions in Nebraska, along with the state's regional centers, make up the state's public mental health and substance abuse prevention system, also known as the Nebraska Behavioral Health System (NBHS). Region 6 is governed by a board of county commissioners, who are elected officials from each of the counties represented in the Regional geographic area. The Regional Governing Board (RGB) is under contract with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the designated authority for administration of mental health and substance abuse programs for the state.

Each RGB appoints a Regional Administrator (RA) to be the chief executive officer responsible to the RGB. The RGB also appoints an advisory committee for the purposes of advising the RGB regarding the provision of coordinated and comprehensive behavioral health services within the Region to best meet the needs of the general public. In Region 6, the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC) is comprised of 10 members including consumers, concerned citizens, and representatives from other community service systems in the Region.

REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST

The purpose of this Request for Letters of Interest (RFL) is to seek qualified, interested coalitions or fiscal agents for coalitions to engage in negotiations regarding the development and provision of primary prevention services for alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington Counties in Nebraska.

The Substance Abuse Prevention Block Grant is intended to fund efforts that demonstrate the knowledge of and experience in the implementation of primary prevention programs and services that are directed at individuals who have not been determined to require treatment for substance use, the Strategic Prevention Framework model, and the potential to produce positive change in outcome measurements.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The interested organization may be a state, county, or community-based agency acting as the fiscal agent for a community prevention coalition or an independent non-profit community prevention organization or coalition. The fiscal agent or interested organization/coalition must be a legal entity already established and functioning with paid personnel and demonstrable experience in working with

the identified target population as stated above. Interested coalitions must demonstrate efforts to coordinate activities with the Region, other community prevention coalitions, and partners.

Since the funding source for the prevention program is Federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant, an application from a for-profit organization cannot be accepted. The applicant for this grant must be an independent non-profit organization or coalition. A coalition is defined as a community-based organization of individuals representing diverse organizations, factions, of constituencies who agree to work together in order to achieve a common goal. The coalition's work includes identification of prevention services and/or strategies designed to specifically reduce or delay the onset of substance use.

STRUCTURE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

There is a total of \$417,448 available for allocation through this RFL. The funding period will run on the state fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2026. Awards may be granted on an annual basis for up to three (3) years, however, the Region does not guarantee award renewal. The Region reserves the right to alter, modify, amend and/or withdraw funding during the award cycle based on the availability of funding and the on-going assessment of funded programs and strategies.

This funding opportunity prioritizes community impact based on results from a community data assessment. Applicants will demonstrate how they intend to contribute to the listed priorities and three-year goals. While these priority areas are Region wide, there are specific highlighted priorities for each Region 6 county. It is the intention of the RFL to fund programming across and in all Region 6 counties.

Community Impact Priorities

Priority #1

Electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), also called electronic cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vaping devices, or vape pens, are battery-powered devices used to smoke or "vape" a flavored or unflavored solution which usually contains nicotine and can also contain alcohol or THC. Regardless of the substance used in the device, this delivery mechanism has become problematic for youth in the Region 6 area. The means of all youth vaping/ENDS use is supplied or allowed through adults in a retail or social setting. This RFL seeks proposals impacting ENDS use among youth ages 8-20 with the following strategies, including but not limited to:

Retail Access to vapes/ENDS

Reducing sales to minors, licensing for retailers, price and tax of products, retail outlet density, and product placement in retail settings.

Social Access to vapes/ENDS

Promotion of the penalties for selling, giving, or furnishing to a minor.

School policy and practices to reduce use and expand supports for students.

Perception of Harm of use of vapes/ENDS:

Youth and Parent Education.

Alternatives to Suspension Programs and expanded supports for students.

Three-Year Impact Indicators

- Reduce lifetime use of electronic vapor products (Baseline: 8th graders 10.9%, 10th graders 18.2%, 12th graders 30.2%-2023 NRPFSS)
- Reduce 30-day use of electronic vapor products (Baseline: 8th graders 5.4%, 10th graders 8.9%, 12th graders 16.2%-2023 NRPFSS)
- Reduce prevalence of age of first use under age 12 (Baseline: 12th graders 6.2%-2023 NRPFSS)
- Reduce ease of obtaining electronic vapor products (Baseline: 12th graders 49.8%-2023 NRPFSS)

Priority #2

Alcohol consumption is the third leading preventable cause of cancer in the United States, after tobacco and obesity according to a 2025 Surgeon General’s Advisory. The Nebraska Cancer Prevention Plan (2025-20230) also highlights the risk of alcohol consumption on cancer, identifying strategies to improve the health of Nebraskans. The RFL seeks to impact community awareness, screening, and promotion of protective factors that minimize risk for adults 19 years and older, including but not limited to:

Perception of Harm

Education and awareness of increased risk of alcohol use and cancer, and strategies for reducing use.

Promotion and Implementation of Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) or other alcohol screening protocols.

Protective Factors

Building, promoting, and implementing strategies that increase social supports, coping skills, lifestyle factors, sense of purpose, and cultural and religious beliefs.

Three- Year Impact Indicator

- Reduce percentage of adults that report alcohol consumption in the past 30 days (Baseline: BFRSS Region 6, 2022- 59.8%)

Applications will demonstrate programs, policies and practices that will contribute to these indicators.

Comprehensive Prevention Planning

The Federal Prevention Block Grant focuses on comprehensive prevention strategies to impact priority areas through the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF). This model of prevention planning incorporates data, capacity development, and effective planning to result in successful implementation and demonstrable community outcomes. Successful applications will incorporate clear understanding of this SPF processes through clear outcomes based on areas of community impact, SMART goals, and a clear logic model to illustrate how their activities will result in the outcomes.



Comprehensive planning also incorporates strategies in multiple contexts, choosing prevention strategies that operate at multiple levels in order to achieve the greatest impact - individual, relationship, community, and society. Successful applications will demonstrate understanding of priority populations and community context to make impact on the indicators.

All proposed programs/services must fall into at least one of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention's 6 Prevention Strategies.

- Information Dissemination
- Education
- Problem Identification and Referral
- Community-based Processes
- Environmental Strategies

At least 50% of the proposed budget must fund services that fall into the Community-based Processes and Environmental Strategies. The use of environmental strategies is highly encouraged, and are considered strategies that focus on altering societal influences rather than focusing on the individual.

At least 75% of proposed budgets must fund evidence-based programs, policies and practices. Individual level strategies will be eligible for funding if they are deemed an evidence-based program indicated on a national registry of evidence-based programs or evidenced through peer reviewed journals.

Funding selection will give priority to coalition plans that meet or exceed these requirements.

Sustainability

A focus of this funding opportunity is sustainability of the activities and impacts funded by these dollars after the three-year opportunity. Successful applicants will highlight strong partnerships and strategies to sustain community impacts contributed to by this funding opportunity. Sustainability plans will be required no later than the end of the first year of funding.

USE OF FUNDS

The funding period will run on the state fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2026. Awards may be granted on an annual basis for up to three (3) years, however, the Region does not guarantee award renewal. The Region reserves the right to alter, modify, amend and/or withdraw funding during the award cycle based on the availability of funding and the on-going assessment of funded programs and strategies.

Funds cannot be used for the following activities:

- Financial contributions to individuals
- Fund-raising events
- Lobbying
- Abortion
- Laboratory or clinical research
- Projects which do not serve the designated geographical area
- Purchase or improvement of land, purchase or permanently improve and building or other facility or purchase major medical equipment
- Cash payments to intended recipients of health service
- Promotional and incentive items
- Food or beverages
- Memberships and Dues

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Release of RFL	Tuesday, January 7, 2025
Letters of Interest Submissions Due	Tuesday, January 28, 2025
Reviewed by Behavioral Health Advisory Committee	Wednesday, February 5, 2025
Approval of Selected Organizations by Region 6 Governing Board	Wednesday, February 12, 2025
Written Allocation Announcements of Funding Disseminated after Regional Governing Board Meeting	After Friday, February 14, 2025

Cost Liability

Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare assumes no responsibility or liability for costs by the respondent prior to the execution of an agreement between the organization and Region 6.

Disclaimer

All the information contained within this RFL reflects the best and most accurate information available to Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare at the time of the RFL preparation. No inaccuracies in such information shall constitute a basis for legal recovery of damages, either real or punitive. If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFL, a supplement will be issued on the Region 6 website:

www.regionsix.com.

Oral Interviews

Region 6 reserves the right to conduct oral interviews if required. Any cost incidental to the interviews shall be borne entirely by the respondent and will not be compensated by Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare or the RGB.

Indemnification

The respondent shall assume all risk of loss in the performance of the response submission and shall indemnify and hold harmless Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare, its Governing Board, Advisory Committee members, and employees from all liabilities, demands, claims, suits, losses, damages, causes of action, fines or judgments and all expenses incident thereto, for injuries to persons and for loss of, damage to, or destruction of property caused by the negligent or intentional acts or omissions of the applicant, its officers, employees or agents; for any losses caused by failure of the applicant to comply with the terms and conditions of the contract; and for any losses caused by other parties which have entered into agreements with the respondent in connection with the performance of the contract.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS ON SUBMISSION OF LETTERS

All instructions, conditions, and requirements included in this document are considered mandatory unless otherwise stated. Letters that do not conform to the items provided in this document will not be considered.

All Letters must be received in Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare office or by email by 12:00pm, Tuesday, January 28, 2025.

The organizational narrative should include a response to the required items below as they relate to your interest in this grant project. Using a 10-point font or larger, the Letter of Interest should not exceed ten (10) typed pages, including the budget.

One or more organizations or coalitions may be funded through this Request for Letters of Interest process.

Interested organizations must submit a Letter of Interest, however submitting a Letter of Interest does not bind your organization to receive funds or participate in the grant opportunity.

Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare shall not be held responsible for any cost incurred in the development or submission of the Request for Letters of Interest.

Letters must be sent or delivered to:

Attention: Crystal Fuller

Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare

4715 S 132nd Street

Omaha, NE 68137

cfuller@regionsix.com

- Applicants shall not be allowed to alter or amend their Letters after submission
- Electronic copies may be accepted via email
- No requests for extensions of the due date will be approved
- Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare/RGB accepts no responsibility for mislabeled/missent mail

LETTER OF INTEREST

The Letter of Interest should address the following:

- Explain the basis of your interest in addressing the prevention priorities of this grant project.
- Describe past successes in implementing comprehensive prevention strategies.
- Provide past experience in community collaborations for project completion.
- Describe current and potential coalition and staff capacity to complete project.
- Address your experience in working in the Region 6 counties of Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington.
- Illustrate your ability to develop and collect outcome measures and evaluate project impact.
- Outline potential strategies for addressing the community impact priorities, including the potential implementation throughout the Region 6 counties.
- Identify potential priority populations you propose to impact with strategies.
- Budget proposal for project using guidance below.

Budget Category	Individual Item Description	Total Cost	Cost Requested
Personnel	Staff Position(s) and FTE	Total Cost of Each	Cost Requested through this RFL

Fringe/Benefits	Staff Position(s) and Fringe Rate	Total Cost of Each	Cost Requested through this RFL
Supplies	Item Description(s)	Total Cost of Each	Cost Requested through this RFL
Travel	Local Mileage	Total Cost of Each	Cost Requested through this RFL
Other	Item Description(s)	Total Cost of Each	Cost Requested through this RFL
Indirect	Agency Indirect Rate	Total Cost	Cost Requested through this RFL